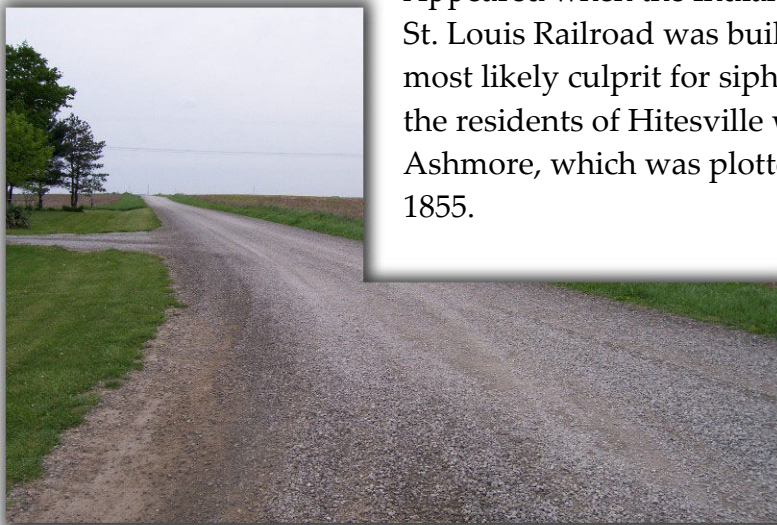There have been many settlements in Coles County that disappeared over the years. Ashmore Township was home to two such phantom villages; St. Omer (see Issue 3) and Hitesville. Hitesville was located about two miles southwest of the town of Ashmore at the intersection of 820N and 2740E, not far from Rout 49. The old Hitesville cemetery (no longer in use) is not too far south of there, along Rout 49. The former Greenwood School, now a museum on the Eastern Illinois University campus, rested between three roads just west of where Hitesville once stood.

The origin of Hitesville is somewhat murky. Local history books say that James Hite, an immigrant from Kentucky who came to Coles County in 1831, created the village and named it after himself in April of 1835. A stone marker at the location, however, says that Hitesville was founded in 1837. Whatever the year, at its peak it encompassed several shops and houses. Despite there being no record of another town in the immediate vicinity, the History of Coles County (1879) states that the village was "swallowed up" by new villages that

This stone marker is the last physical reminder of Hitesville.

Appeared when the Indianapolis & St. Louis Railroad was built. The most likely culprit for siphoning off the residents of Hitesville was Ashmore, which was plotted in 1855.

These gravel roads are all that remains to mark the boundaries of Hitesville. Only one home stands at the corner. There are no traces of any other buildings.

James Hite and some of his neighbors also built a nearby Presbyterian church. A man by the name of Reverand John Steele presided over the congregation until the building was sold when James Hite moved out of the area. The church parishioners, many of whom were from the St. Omer area, moved to a different building.

Hitesville lasted just long enough to appear on a map of the county along with St. Omer and Ashmore. Shortly thereafter, both Hitesville and St. Omer ceased to exist.